

## ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2015

**Agenda Item:** 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 60 Minutes

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### **Background**

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2015) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

Deer populations in much of the state are recovering from lows of a few years ago and growing substantially. For the 2016 and 2017 mule deer and white-tailed deer season structure, some of the more significant proposed changes include liberalizing seasons. Region 1 is proposing going to antlerless white-tailed deer opportunities the first and last week of the general season, many hunting districts in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 propose going to either-sex mule deer during the general season, and there are a number of proposed mule deer B License opportunities. Region 1 is also proposing offering handicapped hunters with Permission To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV) the opportunity to take either-sex white-tailed deer during the entire general season in most hunting districts.

For other proposed changes see Commission Master List for the December meeting.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Deer season comments were received during scoping and included interest in antlerless opportunities and buck harvest management. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2016. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 11, 2016 Commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2015 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Rationale for individual proposals is included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt for public comment the 2016 and 2017 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.